

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 28 are amended and claims 1-3, 6, 21, 24 and 27 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Support for the amendment to the claims may be found, for example, on pages 11 and 12 and on page 24, lines 25-27, and page 25, lines 1-6 of the specification and in FIGS. 2 and 18. No new matter has been added. After entry of this Amendment, claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 28 will remain pending in the patent application.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23, 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23 and 25-26 have been rewritten in independent form and these claims have been amended to obviate the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23 and 25-26 are allowable.

The drawings were rejected under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In connection with the rejection, the Examiner indicated that the recitation "increased width portion of said groove [is] formed to cover an entire range of a thickness of said dielectric film" in claim 5, must be shown. In response, Applicants note that claim 5 does not recite such language and point out that the recitation cited by the Examiner was changed to "laterally receded portion of said groove [is] formed to cover an entire range of a thickness of said dielectric" (emphasis added) in the last Amendment dated April 6, 2004. Applicants also point out that the amended recitation is supported by the specification and illustrated in the drawings. In that regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to FIG. 18 where it is shown that the receded portion 25 is formed over the entire thickness range of the silicon oxide film 12. (See also page 24, lines 25-27, and page 25, lines 1-6 of the specification). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 6, 21, 24 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 21, 24 and 27.

In connection with the rejection, the Examiner indicated that the recitation "only said bottom surface in a whole surface of said semiconductor layer" is unclear. In response, claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23, and 25-26 have been amended to recite that the groove, in the dielectric film, is receded laterally so as to expose a portion of a bottom surface of the semiconductor layer and that the impurity diffusion source contacts said portion of the bottom surface of the semiconductor layer. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23, and 25-26 obviates the rejection. Claim 28 depends from claim 4 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons provided above related to claim 4.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 22, 23, and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 21, 24, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Radens *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,426,252) ("Radens"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 6, 21, 24, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 21, 24, and 27.

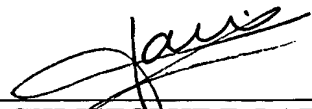
Claim 28 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 4, which has been written in independent form and amended to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, claim 28 is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Radens are respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,  
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By:   
CHRISTOPHE F. LAIR  
Reg. No. 54248  
Tel. No. (703) 905-2097  
Fax No. (703) 905-2500

JDK/CFL  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 905-2000